



**TEMPORARY WATER USE AUTHORIZATION (TWUA)  
TWUA F2021-090**

**ISSUED:** July 23, 2021  
**EXPIRES:** July 22, 2026

Donlin Gold LLC  
Attn: Enric Fernandez  
2525 C Street, Suite 450  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Environmental Management,

**Re:** Lower Snow Gulch Restoration Project - TWUA F2021-090

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) Water Resources Section, has completed the review of your above referenced APMA and/or Application for Temporary Use of Water (TWUA) to withdraw, divert, impound, and/or use water in support of mining activities as detailed in the applicable sections of the APMA submitted to the ADNR Mining Section or in the TWUA Application submitted to the ADNR Water Resources Section. Pursuant to AS 46.15 (Alaska Water Use Act), and 11 AAC 93.210 and 220 (Temporary water use/Procedure for temporary water use) as amended and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, permission is hereby granted to Donlin Gold LLC, Attn: Enric Fernandez, 2525 C Street, Suite 450, Anchorage, AK 99503 (hereinafter authorization holder), and to the authorization holder's contractor(s) to conduct water use activities as described herein and on any attachment hereto.

**Please note all conditions on this authorization. If changes to this project are proposed during its siting, construction, or operation, please contact this office to determine if further review is necessary.**

**Project Description**

Water use activities requested in the TWUA F2021-091 application are for restoring and enhancing fish habitats within the Donlin Gold LLC (Donlin) leased mineral property. Donlin is requesting a water use authorization for withdrawals, diversions, and impoundments for a stream restoration project. Donlin proposes to restore the Lower Snow Gulch as described in the Donlin 'Lower Snow Gulch Restoration Project' (included with the TWUA application). Surface water diversion of Lower Snow Gulch is requested to facilitate the restoration of fish habitat and habitat function within the Donlin Creek floodplain. The ultimate design of the restoration will connect ponds to adjacent streams to facilitate fish passage. The streambanks and floodplain areas will be contoured and revegetated. This revegetated and stabilized stream channel will then have future water flows that will be able to create and allow an environment for existing fish species to have the potential for successful rearing and spawning. Donlin wants to conduct these activities

prior to mine development to begin the process of environmental due diligence and understand the future needs that will be required for reclamation activities.

### **Daily Duration and Months of Use**

Water diversion activities will be conducted up to 24 hours per day (or as otherwise limited by the maximum authorized gallons per day (gpd)). All water diversion activities will be conducted January 1st through December 31st of each authorized year (2021-2026).

### **Quantity of Water to Be Used**

- Diversions: A diversion of Lower Snow Gulch will be constructed/maintained at a length of 500 feet, width of 8 feet, and depth of 5 feet.
- Dewatering: Dewatering activities as required for the Lower Snow Gulch Restoration Project. Groundwater dewatering (no pumping from active stream surface sources) will be conducted at a maximum combined withdrawal rate of 5,000 gallons per minute (gpm) at a maximum combined daily withdrawal of 7,200,000 gpd. Dewatering activities are authorized to occur June 1 through September 30 of each operating year

**Water withdrawals are only authorized from within applicants mining claims and only within the source areas as described below and displayed in the TWUA F2021-090 application. A water source map is attached to this authorization.**

### **Legal Description of the Point of Water Withdrawal, Impoundment or Diversion (Sources)**

1. Groundwater and the reach of Lower Snow Gulch located within SE1/4 Section 14, Township 23 North, Range 49 West, Seward Meridian.

### **Conditions of TWUA**

1. This authorization does not authorize the authorization holder or contractor(s) to enter upon any lands until proper rights-of-way, easements, or permission documents from the appropriate landowner have been obtained.
2. Follow acceptable engineering standards in exercising the privilege granted herein.
3. Comply with all applicable laws, and any rules and/or regulations issued thereunder.
4. Except for claims or losses arising from negligence of the State, defend and indemnify the State, the State's agents, and the State's employees against and hold each of them harmless from any and all claims, demands, suits, loss, liability and expense, including attorney fees, for injury to or death of persons and damages to or loss of property arising out of or connected with the exercise of the privileges covered by this authorization.
5. Notify the Water Resources Section upon change of address.
6. The authorization holder is responsible for obtaining, maintaining, and complying with other permits/approvals (state, federal, or local) that may be required prior to beginning water withdrawal, diversion, impoundment and/or use, including but not limited to fish

habitat permit(s) from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Habitat Division.

7. The authorization holder shall allow an authorized representative of the Water Resources Section to inspect, at reasonable times, any facilities, equipment, practices, or operations regulated or required under this authorization.
8. Failure to respond to a request for additional information during the term of the authorization may result in the termination of this authorization.
9. This authorization, or a copy thereof, shall be kept at the site of the authorized project described herein. The authorization holder is responsible for the actions of contractors, agents, or other persons who perform work to accomplish the approved project, and shall ensure that workers are familiar with the requirements and conditions of this authorization. For any activity that significantly deviates from the approved project during its siting, construction, or operation, the authorization holder is required to contact the Water Resources Section and obtain approval before beginning the activity.
10. The Water Resources Section may modify this authorization to include different limitations, expand monitoring requirements, evaluate impacts, or require restoration at the site.
11. Any false statements or representations, in any application, record, report, plan, or other document filed or required to be maintained under this authorization, may result in the termination of this authorization.
12. Pursuant to 11 AAC 93.220 (f), this authorization may be suspended or terminated by the Department of Natural Resources to protect the water rights of other persons or the public interest.
13. Except as otherwise specifically noted herein or by attachment hereto, only one authorized pump may be operated at a time from the same authorized source of water.
14. No damming or diversion of waters is permitted unless specifically authorized by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
15. Adequate flow and water levels, as determined by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Habitat Division, must remain to support indigenous aquatic life and provide for the efficient passage and movement of fish if any are present. Except as otherwise specifically noted herein or by attachment hereto, issuance of this authorization does not give the authorization holder the right to block or dam a water course. Any water intake structures in fish bearing waters, including a screened enclosure, well-point, sump, or infiltration gallery, must be designed, operated, and maintained to prevent fish entrapment, entrainment, or injury at the maximum withdrawal rate, unless specifically exempted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Habitat Division. Inspect the intake screen for damage (torn screen, crushed screen, screen separated from intake ends, etc.) after each use and prior to each deployment. Any damage must be repaired prior to use of the structure. The structure must always conform to the original design specifications while in use. The suction hose at the water source take point must be clean and free from contamination.
16. Except as otherwise authorized or required herein, in-water activity to facilitate water withdrawal shall be limited to placement and removal of the intake structure only. No other

in-water activities will occur to facilitate water withdrawal pursuant to this authorization. There shall be no wheeled, tracked, excavating, or other machinery or equipment (with the exception of the non-motorized screened intake box) operated below the ordinary high water line to facilitate water withdrawal pursuant to this authorization. Except as otherwise authorized herein, water sources shall not be altered to facilitate water withdrawal or disturbed in any way. If banks, shores, or beds are inadvertently disturbed, excavated, compacted, or filled, they shall be immediately stabilized to prevent erosion and sedimentation of the water source. Any disturbed areas shall be recontoured and revegetated with native vegetation.

17. Any discharge shall comply with the Alaska Water Quality Standards (18 AAC 70). This may require the installation and maintenance of settling ponds or similar systems to reduce turbidity and settleable solids in the discharges. Water discharge (including runoff) shall not be discharged at a rate or location resulting in sedimentation, erosion, or other disruptions to the bed or banks of water bodies, causing water quality degradation.
18. Pumping operations shall be conducted in such a way as to prevent any petroleum products or hazardous substances from contaminating surface or ground water. Pumps shall not be fueled or serviced within 100 feet of a pond, lake, or stream unless the pumps are situated within a catch basin designed to contain any spills. Absorbent pads shall be readily available at the water withdrawal sites. Hazardous and non-hazardous spills must be reported to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation at 1-800-478-9300 per their Notification Requirements and to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources.
19. The placement of mining and pumping equipment shall not unnecessarily hinder public access, if any, to the above-described sources.
20. Per 11 AAC 05.260(e), an annual administrative service fee shall be assessed on this authorization.

This TWUA is issued pursuant to 11 AAC 93.220. No water right or priority is established by a TWUA issued pursuant to 11 AAC 93.220. Water so used is subject to appropriation by others.

Pursuant to 11 AAC 93.210 (b), an authorized TWUA is subject to amendment, modification, or revocation by the Department of Natural Resources if the Department of Natural Resources determines that an amendment, modification, or revocation is necessary to supply water to lawful appropriators of record or to protect the public interest.

Any questions or concerns about this TWUA may be directed to the preparer of this authorization, Natural Resource Specialist, Jenny March at 907-451-2793 or by email at [jenny.march@alaska.gov](mailto:jenny.march@alaska.gov).

**Signature for Issuance of TWUA:**

Approved: Kindra Geis July 23, 2021  
Signature and Date

Kindra Geis, Natural Resource Specialist III

A person affected by this decision may appeal it, in accordance with 11 AAC 02. Any appeal must be received within 20 calendar days after the date of "issuance" of this decision, as defined in 11 AAC 02.040(c) and (d), and may be mailed or delivered to the Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources, 550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1400, Anchorage, Alaska, 99501; faxed to 907-269-8918, or sent by electronic mail to [dnr.appeals@alaska.gov](mailto:dnr.appeals@alaska.gov). This decision takes effect immediately. If no appeal is filed by the appeal deadline, this decision becomes a final administrative order and decision of the department on the 31<sup>st</sup> calendar day after issuance. An eligible person must first appeal this decision in accordance with 11 AAC 02 before appealing this decision to Superior Court. A copy of 11 AAC 02 may be obtained by contacting Kindra Geis at (907)451-2790 by phone or email at [kindra.geis@alaska.gov](mailto:kindra.geis@alaska.gov) and is available on the divisions website at <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/Attachment.aspx?id=91738> or can be obtained from any Public Information Center of the Department of Natural Resources. Under 11 AAC 02.030, appeals and requests for reconsideration filed under 11 AAC 02 must be accompanied by the fee established in 11 AAC 05.160(d)(1)(F), which has been set at \$200 under the provisions of 11 AAC 05.160 (a) and (b).